

Sports Philatelists International

Criteria for Best-of-Show & Novice Awards

1. Sports Philatelists International, in order to encourage the exhibiting of sport and Olympic material, sponsors a series of awards for Best-of-Show and Novice exhibitors.
2. Any philatelic society having a competitive exhibition using American Philatelic Society (APS) or American Topical Association (ATA) accredited judges may request SPI Award diplomas from Mark Maestroni, 2824 Curie Place, San Diego, CA 92122 (markspi@prodigy.net). There is no charge for the diplomas.
3. Definition of a "Qualifying Exhibit": material of a sports and/or Olympics nature must predominate. Exhibit may be entered in any General Class including, but not limited to, Postal Division, Revenue Division, Illustrated Mail Division, Thematic Division, and Display Division. (Note that there are separate awards for Best-of-Show multi-frame exhibits and Best-of-Show One Frame Division exhibits.)
4. Award criteria:
 - a. SPI Best-of-Show Award (multi-frame). In adult level competitions, a Best-of-Show may be awarded to a silver medal (or above) winner if three or more Qualifying Exhibits are in competition.
 - b. SPI Best-of-Show Award (One Frame Division). In adult level competitions, a Best-of-Show may be awarded to a silver medal (or above) winner if two or more Qualifying Exhibits are in competition.
 - c. SPI Novice Award. In adult level competition, the Novice Award is given to the best Qualifying Exhibit by a first time exhibitor at a WSP show winning a bronze medal or better. There is no minimum for the number of participating Qualifying Exhibits.
 - d. SPI Best-of-Show Youth Award. The Youth Award may be given at the discretion of the judges regardless of the medal level attained by the exhibit or number of Qualifying Exhibits entered in the show.
5. Ineligibility: The SPI Best-of-Show Awards (both multi-frame and One Frame Division) may not be awarded to the same exhibit more than once in any 4-year period. Show committees will be provided with the exhibit titles and their owner's names who are ineligible for the award. This rule does not apply to special SPI awards at international FIP/FIPO exhibitions.
6. Prizes: A special diploma is given to each SPI Award winner. In certain cases, SPI may provide a trophy in addition to the diploma for Best-of-Show winners.
7. The recipient of any SPI Award need not be a member of SPI, however the organization does reserve the right to solicit all winners of SPI Awards for possible membership in SPI.